What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method of selectively caching content responsive to a cache miss, comprising steps of:

2   receiving, at a cache store responsive to a cache miss, content for which the cache miss

3   occurred;

4   deciding whether the received content should be cached at the cache store, responsive to

5   the receiving step, and only caching it if so; and

6   returning the received content from the cache store to a client that sent a request that

7   caused the cache miss, regardless of the deciding step.

1   2.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the deciding step evaluates historical metrics.

1   3.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the deciding step further comprises evaluating

2   a hit rate associated with the content and deciding whether content having that hit rate may be

3   advantageously cached by the cache store.

1   4.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the deciding step further comprises deciding

2   whether a hit rate associated with the content is higher than hit rates associated with other content

3   already cached by the cache store and if so, deciding to accept the content.

1   5.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the deciding step considers historical metrics

2   associated with the content.

1 6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the deciding step considers resources of the

2 cache store.

1 7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the deciding step considers currently-available

2 resources of the cache store.

1 8. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the deciding step compares a priority

2 associated with the content to priorities associated with already-cached content at the cache store.

1 9. A system for selectively caching content responsive to a cache miss, comprising:

2 means for receiving, at a cache store responsive to a cache miss, content for which the

3 cache miss occurred;

4 means for deciding whether the received content should be cached at the cache store,

5 responsive to the means for receiving, and only caching it if so; and

6 means for returning the received content from the cache store to a client that sent a

7 request that caused the cache miss, regardless of an outcome of the means for deciding.

1 10. The system according to Claim 9, wherein the means for deciding further comprises means

2 for evaluating a hit rate associated with the content and deciding whether content having that hit

3 rate may be advantageously cached by the cache store.

1 11. The system according to Claim 9, wherein the means for deciding further comprises means

2   for deciding whether a hit rate associated with the content is higher than hit rates associated with

3   other content already cached by the cache store and if so, deciding to accept the content.

1   12.   The system according to Claim 9, wherein the means for deciding considers one or more

2   of: historical metrics associated with the content; resources of the cache store; and currently-

3   available resources of the cache store.

1   13.   The system according to Claim 9, wherein the means for deciding compares a priority

2   associated with the content to priorities associated with already-cached content at the cache store.

1   14.   A computer program product for selectively caching content responsive to a cache miss,

2   the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and

3   comprising:

4   computer-readable program code means for receiving, at a cache store responsive to a

5   cache miss, content for which the cache miss occurred;

6   computer-readable program code means for deciding whether the received content should

7   be cached at the cache store, responsive to the computer-readable program code means for

8   receiving, and only caching it if so; and

9   computer-readable program code means for returning the received content from the cache

10   store to a client that sent a request that caused the cache miss, regardless of an outcome of the

11   computer-readable program code means for deciding.

1   15.   The computer program product according to Claim 14, wherein the computer-readable

2   program code means for deciding further comprises computer-readable program code means for

3   evaluating a hit rate associated with the content and deciding whether content having that hit rate

4   may be advantageously cached by the cache store.

1   16.   The computer program product according to Claim 14, wherein the computer-readable

2   program code means for deciding further comprises computer-readable program code means for

3   deciding whether a hit rate associated with the content is higher than hit rates associated with

4   other content already cached by the cache store and if so, deciding to accept the content.

1   17.   The computer program product according to Claim 14, wherein the computer-readable

2   program code means for deciding considers one or more of: historical metrics associated with the

3   content; resources of the cache store; and currently-available resources of the cache store.

1   18.   The computer program product according to Claim 14, wherein the computer-readable

2   program code means for deciding compares a priority associated with the content to priorities

3   associated with already-cached content at the cache store.